Christopher Hookway has been influential in promoting engagement with pragmaticist and naturalist perspectives from classical and contemporary American philosophy. This book reflects on Hookway’s work on the American philosophical tradition and its significance for contemporary discussions of the understanding of mind, meaning, knowledge, and value.

Hookway’s original and extensive studies of Charles S. Peirce have made him among the most admired and frequently referenced of Peirce’s interpreters. His work on classical American pragmatism has explored the philosophies of William James, John Dewey, and Josiah Royce, and examined the influence of pragmatist ideas outside of the United States. Additionally, Hookway has participated in a number of celebrated exchanges with some of the most high-profile figures of twentieth- and twenty-first-century philosophy, including Karl-Otto Apel, Philip Pettit, Hilary Putnam, and W.V.O. Quine, through which his treatments of a large range of topics in epistemology and the philosophies of mind and language have been developed and promoted. The chapters in this book—which include contributions from several of Hookway’s former students and colleagues—include studies of Hookway’s engagement with the works of Peirce, James, and Dewey, his contributions to virtue epistemology, and his discussions of hope and pragmatist metaphysics.

*Pragmatic Reason* will be of interest to researchers and advanced students working on American philosophy, the history of analytic philosophy, and epistemology.

**Robert B. Talisse** is W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of over 100 academic articles and more than 10 books, including *Sustaining Democracy: What We Owe to the Other Side* (2021).

**Paniel Reyes Cárdenas** was made lecturer and researcher at UPAEP (People's Autonomous University of Puebla State, Puebla, Mexico) where he is now chair of philosophy of language and medieval philosophy. Paniel is part of the national council for research of Mexico, awarded SNI 1 for his research work. As a junior scholar, Paniel was awarded as Honorary Researcher by the Department of Philosophy of the University of Sheffield in 2017. Paniel has published *Scholastic Realism* (2018) and *Ideas in Development* (2018).

**Daniel Herbert** has held research and lecturing positions at the University of Sheffield, UPAEP (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Puebla) and King’s College London. He is currently Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Sheffield and has published research on several figures from the history of philosophy, including Kant, Nietzsche, Bradley, Peirce, James, Husserl, Cassirer, and Sartre.
Charles Peirce on Ethics, Esthetics and the Normative Sciences  
*James Jakób Liszka*

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*Edited by Robert B. Talisse, Paniel Reyes Cárdenas, and Daniel Herbert*

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Mara-Daria Cojocaru has taught at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, the Munich School of Philosophy, the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, and the University of Graz, and is currently fixed-term professor of moral philosophy at the Munich School of Philosophy as well as fellow and writer in virtual residence at PAN (People, Animals, Nature) works. She has been visiting scholar at the University of Sheffield, the University of Brighton, and the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. In addition to political philosophy, philosophical pragmatism, and the philosophy of emotion, animal ethics and politics is her area of specialization. She is the author of *Passionate Animals: Emotions, Animal Ethics, and Moral Pragmatics* (2022) and has published articles with *Metaphilosophy* and the *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* among others.

Contributors

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Gabriele Gava is Associate Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Turin. He has published articles in leading philosophical journals on Peirce, Kant, pragmatism, and epistemology. His first book, Peirce’s Account of Purposefulness: A Kantian Perspective, was published in 2014 by Routledge. His second book, Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason and the Method of Metaphysics, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. He is Assistant Editor of the journal Studi Kantiani. Personal URL: sites.google.com/site/gabrielegava/

Christopher Hookway is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield. He has made several contributions to pragmatism scholarship and topics in contemporary philosophy, including virtue epistemology. His publications include Peirce (1985), Quine: Language, Experience and Reality (1988), and Scepticism (1990), and two collections of essays on Peirce: Truth, Rationality, and Pragmatism: Themes from Peirce (2000) and The Pragmatic Maxim (2012).

Andrew Howat is an Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Fullerton, in Orange County, California, USA. He has published articles in journals such as Philosophical Studies, Erkenntnis, Synthese, and Transactions of the Charles Sanders Peirce Society.

Cheryl Misak is University Professor and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. She works on American pragmatism, the history of analytic philosophy, ethics and political philosophy, and the philosophy of medicine. Her books include Frank Ramsey: A Sheer Excess of Powers, Cambridge Pragmatism, The American Pragmatists, Truth and the End of Inquiry, and Truth, Politics, Morality. She has had visiting fellowships or temporary posts at the Goethe University in Frankfurt.
the Free University in Berlin; Trinity College, Cambridge; St. John’s College, Cambridge; and New York University. She is an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of a Humboldt Research Prize.

Sami Pihlström is Professor of Philosophy of Religion at the University of Helsinki, Finland, as well as the President of the Philosophical Society of Finland. He has published widely on pragmatism, realism, transcendental philosophy, the philosophy of religion, and related topics. His recent books include Pragmatic Realism, Religious Truth, and Antitheodicy (2020); Why Solipsism Matters (2020); Pragmatist Truth in the Post-Truth Age: Sincerity, Normativity, and Humanism (2021); and Toward a Pragmatist Philosophy of the Humanities (2022).

Robert Stern is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield, where he was Chris Hookway’s colleague for many years. He has written on the relation between Hegel and pragmatism, with several essays on this topic in his collection Hegelian Metaphysics (2009), and two papers in Philosophy Compass. He has also edited two collections on pragmatism and idealism: Pragmatism, Kant, and Transcendental Philosophy (with Gabriele Gava) (2016) and “Idealism and Pragmatism,” special issue of the British Journal for the History of Philosophy (2015). His other books include Transcendental Arguments and Scepticism (2000), Understanding Moral Obligation (2011) and The Radical Demand in Løgstrup’s Ethics (2019).

Neil W. Williams is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Roehampton, London. He completed his PhD with Chris Hookway (and fellow contributor Robert Stern) at the University of Sheffield in 2017, on the topic of William James’ ethics and metaphysics. Since then, he has published papers exploring the metaphilosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics of the American pragmatists in journals including the Journal of the History of Philosophy, the European Journal of Philosophy, and the British Journal for the History of Philosophy.

Joshua Wilson Black completed his PhD at Sheffield under the supervision of Christopher Hookway and Robert Stern in 2017. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.
It is a great honor to present this collection of 14 new essays celebrating the career and philosophy of Christopher Hookway. As these chapters attest, Chris exemplifies the chief virtues of an inquirer. He is at once a generous interpreter of others’ ideas, an acute interlocutor, and an original and innovative thinker in his own right. Additionally, Chris’ work displays a keen sensitivity to philosophy’s history as well as a command of intellectual trends and developments in disciplines beyond academic philosophy.

No doubt his embodiment of these virtues helps to explain the uncommon breadth of Chris’ philosophical work. He is a leading voice on topics as varied as skepticism, naturalism, rationality, intellectual virtue, the emotions, and the natures of meaning and truth. Moreover, Chris has contributed landmark essays about William James, Josiah Royce, and C. I. Lewis. His book-length studies of Charles Peirce and Willard Van Orman Quine remain essential reading for anyone looking to gain a command of those philosophers.

Yet Hookway’s philosophy is unified by an abiding concern with rational inquiry. His recognition that inquiry is a kind of conduct—something that we do—is what drew Chris to the classical pragmatism of Charles Peirce and the epistemological themes of belief, doubt, curiosity, rationality, and knowledge that animate all of Chris’ philosophy. In Chris’ view, a suitably nuanced rendering of the Peircean conception of inquiry—along with its attendant views about meaning and truth—provides the philosophical core of a viable model of human rationality, construed broadly to encompass characteristically human intellectual and axiological pursuits. Following Peirce, Chris understands that as inquiry is a kind of conduct, our pursuits of knowledge and understanding are ultimately endeavors to realize value and live well. In this way, the core of Hookway’s philosophy is definitively pragmatist: philosophy is a normative enterprise.
Christopher Hookway was born in Tonbridge, Kent, on January 20, 1949, and grew up in Broadstairs, where he attended Chatham House Grammar School in Ramsgate. He became the first in his family to attend university when he was accepted for the BA in politics, philosophy, and economics at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1967. It was at Oxford that Chris met his partner Jo, and their Golden Wedding Anniversary was celebrated in 2021. Having studied economics at A-level, this subject had been the original focus of Chris’ undergraduate studies. It was not until the final year of his degree that, under the tutelage of W. H. Newton-Smith, Chris’ attention shifted primarily to philosophy.

Following his graduation from Oxford in 1970, Chris proceeded to the University of East Anglia, where he conducted his studies for a BPhil in philosophy, which was awarded in 1972. Under the encouragement of Bernard Williams, who had acted as the external examiner for his BPhil and was soon to become his doctoral thesis supervisor before being replaced by Ian Hacking, Chris registered in 1972 for a PhD in philosophy at Churchill College, Cambridge. He was William Stone Research Fellow at Peterhouse, Cambridge, from 1974 and was awarded his PhD in 1977.

After completing his doctorate, Chris took up a lectureship at the University of Birmingham, where he remained until 1995, becoming a reader in 1988 and a professor in 1992. From 1980 to 1981, Chris was a Fulbright American Studies Fellow at Harvard University, returning to the United States in 1990 for a Visiting Fellowship at Pittsburgh. By the time of his appointment as Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield in 1995, Chris had become an esteemed scholar of pragmatism and American philosophy, and he was that year made President of the Charles S. Peirce Society. Chris was President of the Aristotelian Society from 1995 to 1996 and the Mind Association from 2007 to 2008. He was Chair of the Analysis Trust Committee in 2008 and Editor of the European Journal of Philosophy from 2012 to 2014. During his affiliation with the Sheffield Philosophy Department, Chris supervised several doctoral theses on pragmatism and American philosophy, a number of whose authors are contributors to the present volume. Chris participated actively in the intellectual and social life of the department and became extremely popular among his students and colleagues, delivering courses on pragmatism, Hegel, epistemology, and philosophy and film. Before the effects of Posterior Cortical Atrophy took hold in 2017, Chris enjoyed walking, playing bridge, watching cricket, and the films of Akira Kurosawa. He retired from teaching in 2017 and became Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield.

These 14 chapters reflect the scope, depth, and impact of Chris’ philosophical work. Rather than providing a summary of each contribution, we will instead let the chapters speak for themselves. However, some orienting remarks about the overall contours of the collection are in order. We begin with a chapter that Chris co-authored with Mara-Daria
Cojocaru on the vexed but crucial issue of the role of community in Peirce’s conception of inquiry. Joshua Forstenzer then places Hookway within the context of the ongoing and expanding cannon of pragmatist philosophy, emphasizing the ways in which Hookway’s philosophical views informed his pedagogical practice. From there, chapters by Andrew Howat, Paniel Reyes Cárdenas, Daniel R. Herbert, and Gabriele Gava critically engage Hookway’s interpretation of Peirce, focusing on the central topics of truth, existence, the nature of transcendental arguments, and the scientific method. Cheryl Misak then draws upon Hookway’s style of reading the history of twentieth-century philosophy in drawing some new lessons about pragmatism and the a priori from two pivotal post-Deweyan pragmatists, C. I. Lewis and Frank Ramsey.

These opening seven chapters establish the pragmatist roots of Hookway’s thinking, highlighting the ways in which Hookway’s Peirceanism is a living, developing philosophy capable of holding its own in debates with contemporary interlocutors. The next two chapters—by Sami Pihlström and Graeme A. Forbes—begin to situate Hookway’s own philosophical orientation in a contemporary context by situating it within current debates over inquiry, the nature of pragmatism, and the status of metaphysics. These in turn set the stage for the remaining five chapters, by Neil Williams, Elizabeth F. Cooke, Joshua Wilson Black, Scott Aikin, and Robert Stern. Each of these authors critically examines one of Hookway’s first-order philosophical theses concerning the conduct of inquiry, often challenging Hookway’s views and proposing an improved alternative. In the end, then, this volume does not only celebrate Chris Hookway’s academic career and contributions to philosophy. It also demonstrates the vitality of Chris’ version of pragmatism.
Peirce and ‘Community’


**The Unity of Pragmatism**


Hookway on Peirce on Truth*

If a passage occurs in the Collected Papers, the citation is “n.m; year”, where n is the volume number, m the paragraph number, and the year is that of the quoted text. If a passage appears in The Essential Peirce (Houser and Kloesel, Eds), the citation is “EP (v.p)”, where v is the volume number and p is the page number.


Christopher Hookway's Study of Peirce's Development


Hookway's Exchange with Apel


**Peirce on Vital Matters and the Scientific Method**


**Empiricism without Dogmas**


The Will to Believe, Epistemic Virtue, and Holistic Transcendental Pragmatism


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**Critical Commonsensism in Contemporary Metaphysics**


The Affective Preconditions of Inquiry

All references to William James are to the Works of William James, Frederick H. Burkhardt, Fredson Bowers, and Ignas K. Skrupskelis (eds.) Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (19 volumes, 1975–1988). The following abbreviations are used: MT The Meaning of Truth; P Pragmatism; PU Pluralistic Universe; WB The Will to Believe and Other Essays in Popular Philosophy.


Is Creativity an Intellectual Virtue?


Peirce on Metaphysics and Commonsense Belief


Hookway’s Soft Skepticism and Epistemic Conservatism


To Inquire Hopefully